

SAPC 9278 ✓
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9 October 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: Project Director and Deputy Director

SUBJECT : Report of Trip to [REDACTED]

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1. I spent the week of October 1-6 at [REDACTED] acting as Base Surgeon and observed their operations.

2. One of the most important observations I made was the improvement of morale in general in all base personnel. Morale in Detachment C is, in my opinion, the best of any of our detachments. I believe this is due first to [REDACTED] and the ability he possesses to inspire confidence and to weld his personnel into a unit by the normal channels. One has the impression that this will hold true under any circumstance. The pilots appear to be a more stable and well motivated group than any others. [REDACTED] personnel give them the respect and attention that make them perform well without the "mothering" or "over forcefulness" previously noted in other groups.

3. Quite by accident, it was brought to my attention that in one area (Hangar #3) a group of fourteen Lockheed people were working with a highly toxic material, methyl-ethyl-ketone. One of the workers developed a moderately severe reaction of the nose, throat and larynx and had to be removed from the work area. It was only then that we learned in the medical section that the substance was being used and that proper precautions of ventilation were not being observed. Because this substance can have a severe effect not only on local tissues of the respiratory system but also on the blood stream and blood forming organs, I examined and questioned the entire group and took blood counts. No others had developed other than minor tissue irritation, however, seven blood counts showed significant peculiarities. I brought this to the attention of the proper supervisors and the Base Surgeon. We took an immediate action of improving ventilation and I also asked [REDACTED] to continue blood counts and other exams at proper intervals. He will give me a continuing report and will also see that no damage will occur to personnel.

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4. It was observed that food service was not up to its usual standard of quality and quantity. This was basically a matter of lack of supervision. This was brought to attention of appropriate sections; and before my departure, a supervisor on full-time status was sent in by RECO.

5. Personal equipment situation was excellent both supply wise and in operation. The level of training of Detachment C personnel in this field was excellent.

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6. The Surgeon for Detachment C arrived and I gave him his indoctrination. [REDACTED] was well pleased with him and I believe he will become an integral part of the unit.

7. No other problems worthy of note were encountered. However, I do want to recommend that in the future, if we are going to use substances of a potentially dangerous nature, the medical personnel should be notified in advance so that proper precautions can be instituted in advance.

8. On previous visits there have always been numerous complaints on finances from the airmen. [REDACTED] has taken that section and is doing such an outstanding job that it is worthy of mention.

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[REDACTED]
Lt. Col., USAF (MC)

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